

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for validating a storage device, the method~~ comprising:
  - storing discovery information relating to a storage device;
  - querying said storage device for device identification information; and
  - comparing at least a portion of returned device identification information to at least a portion of said stored discovery information.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least a portion of said stored discovery information includes device and host bus adapter information.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said stored discovery information is obtained through at least one small computer system interface (SCSI) inquiry.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said stored discovery information is obtained through at least one element selected from the group consisting of:
  - at least one system file;
  - at least one system registry; and
  - combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said stored discovery information is obtained through at least one element selected from the group consisting of:
  - operating system kernel application programming interface call;
  - host bus adapter device driver library application programming interface; and
  - some combination thereof.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least a portion of said returned device identification information includes Product ID, Vendor ID, and Product Revision information.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said returned device identification information includes standard device inquiry information.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said stored discovery information includes device address information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said device address information includes claimed address information; and wherein said method further comprises:  
determining claimed address information for said storage device; and  
comparing said determined claimed address information to said stored claimed address information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said method further comprises:  
flagging said stored discovery information if said determined claimed address information does not match said stored claimed address information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said stored discovery information further includes serial number information for said storage device, and wherein said method further comprises:

querying said storage device for serial number information for said device; and  
comparing said serial number information received in response to said serial number information query to said stored serial number information.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said method further comprises:  
querying said storage device for serial number information for said device; and  
accepting said stored device address information as valid if an error is returned in response to said query.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said querying includes at least one small computer system interface (SCSI) inquiry.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said method further includes  
flagging said stored discovery information if said at least a portion of said returned information does not match said at least a portion of said stored discovery information.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said method further comprises:  
deleting or updating said stored discovery information if said stored discovery information is flagged.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said storing discovery information includes storing discovery information on a host system and a storage management system; and wherein said deleting or updating said stored discovery information includes deleting or updating said discovery information stored at said host system and at said storage management system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said deleting or updating said stored discovery information stored at said host system further comprises:

transmitting an event to said storage managements system requesting said storage management system to delete or update said discovery information stored at said storage management system.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said method further comprises: storing said returned information as a new device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said method further comprises: communicating an event requesting the addition of said returned information or an update of previous information using said returned information.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said method further comprises: preventing communication between a storage management system and said device during said storing said returned information as a new device.

21. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for the validation of a storage device, said system~~ comprising:

means for storing discovery information for a storage device;  
means for querying said storage device for device identification information; and  
means for comparing at least a portion of device identification information received in response to said query to at least a portion of said stored discovery information.

22. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said discovery information includes device address information.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said device address information includes claimed address information for said storage device; and wherein said system further comprises:

means for determining claimed address information for said device;

means for comparing said determined claimed address information to said stored claimed address information; and

means for flagging said stored discovery information if said determined claimed address information does not match said stored claimed address information.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein said discovery information further includes serial number information for said storage device, and wherein said system further comprises:

means for querying said storage device for serial number information for said storage device;

means for comparing said serial number information received in response to said serial number information query to said stored serial number information; and

means for flagging said stored discovery information if said received serial number information does not match said stored serial number information.

25. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein said system further comprises:

means for querying said storage device for serial number information for said device;  
and

means for accepting said stored device address information as valid if an error is returned in response to said query for serial number information.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said system further comprises:

means for flagging said stored discovery information if said at least a portion of said received information does not match said at least a portion of said stored discovery information.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein said system further comprises:

means for deleting or updating said stored discovery information if said stored discovery information is flagged.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein said system further comprises:  
means for preventing communication between a storage management system and said storage device when said stored discovery information is being deleted or updated.

29. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for the validation of at least one storage device address~~ comprising:  
at least one host system, wherein at least one storage device is embedded in or coupled to each of said at least one host system; and wherein each of said at least one host system stores information relating to said at least one storage device embedded in or coupled thereto; and  
at least one host agent process, wherein each of said at least one host agent process resides on a respective host system of said at least one host system;  
wherein each of said at least one host agent process is operable to query said at least one storage device embedded in or coupled to said host system on which said host agent process resides for device identification information, as well as to compare information returned by said at least one storage device to at least a portion of discovery information stored for said at least one storage device at said host system to which said at least one storage device is coupled.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein said at least one host agent process queries said at least one storage device during system start up or doing a discovery polling period.